

MATWATCH

213 Pine Hills Ave. Auburn Al 36830

NOV. 27-DEC. 3 SURVIVOR SERIES EDITION VOL. 2, NO. 23

SURVIVORS: HOGAN-ZEUS NOT OVER -- WE THINK...

By CHRIS CROSBY
MATWATCH CORRESPONDENT

CHICAGO --- In an evening with only one serious angle and little to advance storylines, Hulk Hogan defeated Ted DiBiase to win the main event survivor match for the Hulkamaniacs at the third annual WWF SURVIVOR SERIES in Chicago Thanksgiving night.

In other survivor battles, the Dream Team won out over the Enforcers; the King's Court knocked off the 4x4s; Rude's Brood defeated Roddy's Rowdies; and the Ultimate Warriors cleaned out the Heenan Family.

Substitutes were necessary for Akeem of the Enforcers (Bad News Brown filled in), the recovering Barry Windham (John "Earthquake" Tenta) and the fired Tully Blanchard (Bobby Heenan). Other than a mention of "dissension in the Heenan Family," no specifics were given to explain the no-shows.

The night's results:

ENFORCERS VS. DREAM TEAM: Slow start and lots of early stalling here and it was seven minutes before everybody had been in at least once. Tito Santana and Rick Martel turned up the action at 9:00 with a series of backflips and drop-kicks. Santana went for a sunset flip at 10:12 but Martel reversed it and used trunks for the pin to eliminate Tito.

Dusty Rhodes actually scored a "dropkick" on Rick at 11:00. After an exchange, Terry "Red Rooster" Taylor pulled Bad News in at 13:00. Two minutes later, Brown was accidentally hit by Big Bossman. Bad News then walks back to the dressing room for a countout.

With things at 3-on-3, Brutus Beefcake connected with a high knee on Honky Tonk Man at 18:06 to send Honky to the showers. Beefcake then attempted an over-the-top sunset flip on Martel, who sat down on Brutus by holding the ropes. The ref saw it, kicked Martel off and Brutus completed the pin at 21:00. Forty seconds later, Bossman sideslammed Taylor to can Terry. Dusty came right behind to knock out Bubba with a flying bodypress at 22:13.

But after, Bossman grabbed his nightstick, whacked Beefcake, then choked Dusty, opening a small gash above the Big Ball of Cholesterol's eye. Beefcake recovers for the save but Rhodes is later described as suffering "from bruised ribs." **SURVIVORS:** Rhodes/Beefcake.

4x4s VS. KING'S COURT: After description that Jimmy Hart "pulled strings to get Earthquake on the team," Tenta pinned Hercules Hernandez with his face-forward splash at 4:00. But Bret Hart came right behind with his "School-



boy" move at 5:00. At 7:08, Greg Valentine threw Ronnie Garvin into the ropes but Garvin tagged Jim Duggan, who clothes-lined Valentine for the pin.

Garvin followed up with a "Garvin stomp" on Dino Bravo but could not score the fall. Bravo rallied for a sidesuplex to eliminate Ronie at 11:00.

At 14:00, Bret missed a flying elbow and Tenta rallies with a big elbow but Hart kicks out on 2. Five minutes later, Hart missed a run into the corner and Randy Savage came off the top to pin Bret.

Now in a 1-on-3 deficit, Duggan begins to clean up on all three but at 23:20, Sherri Martel pulled down the ropes with the ref looking away and Duggan is counted out to end it.

After, the ex-King grabs his 2x4 and runs everyone out.

SURVIVORS: Bravo/Savage/Earthquake Tenta.

HULKAMANIACS VS. MILLION \$ TEAM: Very predictable match. Million \$ Team opens by keeping 'Maniacs out of ring until Jake Roberts pulls out Damien.

Hogan & Zeus open by squaring off and Hulk tries his power moves. Tiny Lister sold more on MATLOCK last week than here. DiBiase tries to run in and Zeus begins choking Hulk and is then disqualified at 2:00 for tossing Dave Hebner around.

Six minutes later, the Barbarian missed a headbutt on Demolition Ax from the top but Fuji then trips up Ax and Warlord scores the pinfall.

SURVIVOR SERIES SCOREBOARD

HULKAMANIACS VS. MILLION \$ TEAM (Continued): At 11:00, DiBiase missed an elbow on Smash, who Gilbert Hotshot Ted but Barbarian tagged in and clotheslined Smash off the top for the pin. DiBiase and Roberts then traded near-falls but while the ref tries to break them up, the Powers of Pain double piledrive Hogan, who sells the injured neck. Hebner catches them and disqualifies both Powers (convenient). Jake began to set up for a DDT on DiBiase when Virgil appears. Jake pulls in Virgil and DDTs him but Ted elbows Jake and scores the Flair leg-on-ropes pin. That left DiBiase and Hogan. Ted works over Hulk with power moves and two clotheslines. But when he went for a back suplex, Hogan didn't sell and that led to the 1,379th Superman comeback, foot in face, legdrop and pin at 26:14. **SURVIVOR: Hogan.**

RUDE'S BROOD VS. RODDY'S ROWDIES: The Bushwackers come out eating a turkey bone and Roddy sings, "Dem Bones." This match was almost a Curt Hennig showcase. All of the Rowdies took turns biting Curt before Snuka finally took on Jacques Rougeau and pinned him with a superfly at 4:00. Piper and Raymond Rougeau had a 3-minute flurry before Roddy's piledriver for the fall. Piper and Hennig then exchanged several $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ counts. At 11:00, while Butch Miller clowning with the crowd, Hennig cradled him for a pin. Piper then cradled Curt for a $2\frac{5}{6}$. Rick Rude then gave Luke Williams a Rude Awakening at 12:30 for a pin. Four minutes later, Rude and Piper began a faceoff that went all over the building until both were counted out. Snuka and Hennig then traded several near-falls. But at 22:00, Snuka went for a backdrop but Hennig rolled it into a Perfect-plex for the pin. **SURVIVOR: Hennig.**

ULTIMATE WARRIORS VS. HEENAN FAMILY: Jim Neidhart immediately went after Heenan, who said he wanted to "deal with family problems myself." Amazingly, the Ultimate One was in the ring about 10:00 in this one. And he began by clotheslining Andre the Giant, who was predictably counted out in 47 seconds. Haku then scored a pinfall kick on Neidhart at 3:00. Haku, Arn and the Rockers followed with good exchanges before Arn and Bobby began arguing on the ring apron. Arn & Haku then worked over Marty Jannetty, setting up for two Heenan kneedrops for Bobby to pin Marty at 9:43. Three minutes later, Haku went for a flying press and missed. Sean Michaels then pinned Haku with a flying bodypress. Arn & Heenan argue again before Arn scored a spinebuster pin on Michaels at 15:00. Three minutes later, Arn collided with Heenan and the Warrior military press slammed Arn for the pin. Heenan, still on the floor, revived and realized he had to take on Warrior solo. He begged Arn to come back and help. But Arn kept going, presumably right to the NWA. The Warrior destroyed Heenan with a flying shoulderblock, a Warrior Splash and a pin. As Heenan staggered back down the aisle, Heenan was clobbered from behind with a clothesline by Ult. **SURVIVOR: Ultimate Warrior.**

SURVIVOR SIDELIGHTS: This was the first closed-captioned pay-per-view wrestling card, a nice touch for hearing-impaired.... Just before intermission, the one angle to set up the Dec. 27 Hogan/Beefcake vs. Zeus/Savage cage match after NO HOLDS BARRED on PPV: Sherri threw powder at Hulk & Brutus and Randy & Tiny began to choke them before a pullapart erupted.... Fine technical effort here with only a couple of marginally missed shots but the content was rather lackluster, quite predictable with no real surprises, turns or advances in storylines (other than the angle).

MATWATCH 25 SCALE: Announcing, 3.2; Crowd Enthusiasm, 3.8; Production, 4.3; Quality of Matches, 2.0; Overall Excellence of Show, 2.7. **TOTAL RATING: 16.0.**

**** MATWATCH SUBSCRIPTIONS ****

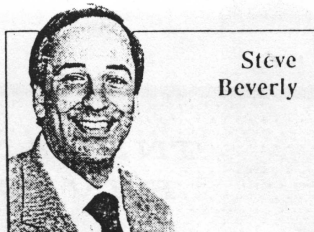
What would you rather give someone for Christmas? A tape of you singing "Deck the Hall," or a gift subscription to MATWATCH? I thought so. The gift special through Dec. 27 is \$5 for a 7-issue order. And you still get your 2 bonus issues per 7-issue gift set, up to a maximum of 13 in a year. Please print clearly the giftee's name and address.

Regular rates:

(U.S./CANADA) \$6 for 7 issues, \$19 for 26 issues, \$36 for 1 year.

(OVERSEAS) \$10 for 7 issues, \$36 for 26 issues, \$65 for 1 year.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS ON MATWATCH ANNUAL.



Steve
Beverly

WINNERS AND LOSERS

Tell me the honest truth: when you pay \$15, \$20, \$30, whatever, in your home to watch a pay-cable wrestling show, you expect a payoff for your investment, right?

When you see disqualifications, draws, or screw-job finishes which make no sense other than to protect the ego of the loser, you perpetually want to ask for a rebate, do you not?

With the exception of the ripoff of a some dud endings and a 20-minute draw at THE GREAT AMERICAN BASH in 1988, a DQ in the Intercontinental title bout at WRESTLEMANIA IV, at least most pay events feature distinct winners and losers by pinfall or submission.

But I have a few questions about the upcoming Ironman and Ironteam tourneys at STARRCADE. Part of them come from having a mathematician in the family. It isn't as difficult as solving Rubik's Cube to determine that if there are no draws in this event, the guy or team winning three bouts takes home all the marbles.

But have you equally studied this: mathematically, with no draws, if the Ironman winner captures victory in three matches, one of the four contenders in each tourney must lose three times. Does that or does that not damage one's candidacy as a top contender? Only you can be the judge, but who winds up in that spot? In the Ironman, it obviously won't be Ric Flair or Lex Luger, whom I have to believe are bound to make the finals unless the NWA hits us with the shocker of the year, to which I wouldn't object. Still, how would it affect Sting or Muta to face an 0-3 evening, even if one of the losses is by DQ?

Again, returning to the calculator, it is mathematically possible for all four guys to be 1-1 after two matches each. So at that point, how do you determine who makes the finals (sure, I know it's a work and they'll devise something---but what is the issue)? Remember, this isn't an "elimination" tourney, per se, or even a double elimination. If Luger and Flair were to each be 1-1 when they wrestle each other, presumably last, so would Muta and Sting be 1-1. Therefore, Sting and Muta would have to draw for Flair and Luger to square off and determine an ultimate Ironman.

If this is confusing, it does indicate careful thought must go into the scoring system and a tremendous explanation job on all of the NWA shows immediately must begin so people can understand how they'll receive a payoff from buying this show on Dec. 13.

Frankly, I have already stated the scenario I feel will provide the best payoff for fans if a Flair-Luger rematch is to be built with intensity and belief that Luger is legit ready for the belt in 1990, Luger has to win the Ironman.

This situation reminds me of the old Jack Brisco-Dory Funk Jr. wars in the 1970s. Those two guys, when Funk was champion, must have had 387 60-minute draws. But when a non-title match was scheduled in Tampa, Brisco was the winner in a 2-out-of-3 contest. Face it: he had nothing to lose and Funk, ever the defensive wrestler, pulled out the stops. Brisco's win finally established him as clearly capable of defeating his Texas rival, though it was two more years before he captured the NWA belt.

The worst possible situation which could happen at this STARRCADE is for Flair and Luger to wind up in a tie. Or for one of the four guys to lose three straight times. A draw in the finale will leave people with a sense of being unfulfilled, much as they were at the end of the Flair-Luger BALTIMORE BASH. No, there must be a winner and a loser in what is still regarded as the NWA's flagship supercard and it must be clearly distinguished who is the Ironman. Flair has nothing to lose with his belt not on the line, other than the clear establishment of Luger's capability of victory over the champion. If that isn't developed here, then tickets will not sell nearly as well for WRESTLE WAR '90 Feb. 25.

However, as I've often told you: my opinion and \$1.89 will get you a 3-liter Diet Coke at Winn-Dixie. What do you think? I'd like to get some quick mail on this in the next week or opinions on the MATWATCH HOTLINE (205) 826-RING (leave your opinion on the answering machine if I don't answer). How important is it for wrestling's pay-per-view shows to have distinct winners and losers without excessive DQs? And if it's a major show, does it really matter for the long-term future of a wrestler's career if he does the job? I, for one, think not---but you may have a different view. Tell us.

I'm reminded of the grand improvement many of us felt in the NWA last December in that excellent sixth STARRCADE and the Flair-Luger match that, up to that time, was the best we'd ever seen in Lex.

Likewise, I want to see a payoff Dec. 13. And a payoff is not going to come with an inconclusive finish.

MATWATCH ANNUAL

The MATWATCH 1989 ANNUAL: THE DECADE THAT CHANGED IT ALL is in development with a hope for publication by January 15. Again, this year, we feature results from balloting for the second annual MATWATCH TV AWARDS (you have until Dec. 15 to get in your votes), the 1989 MATWATCH MAN OF THE YEAR, MATWATCHER OF THE YEAR, comics with OSCAR and others of your favorites, predictions for the 1990s and the Top Ten TV News Stories of the Year (events related to the TV side of pro wrestling).

The annual is \$10 for the U.S. and Canada and \$18 for overseas subscribers. If you give a gift annual and some of you already have, it earns you 3 free MATWATCH issues for every gift annual.

Please do not send checks to MATWATCH. Send check, cash or money order to: STEVE BEVERLY, 213 PINE HILLS AVE., AUBURN AL 36830. Please make checks payable to STEVE BEVERLY and print clearly the address to which you wish a gift annual to be sent.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

IF GIFT, GIFT TO _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

MATWATCH

Page 4

Vol. 2, No. 23 / Nov. 27-Dec. 3

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

CLASH IX, REPLAY TOP TBS RATINGS LIST

ATLANTA --- CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS IX: NEW YORK KNOCKOUT, replayed on TBS Nov. 21 at 10 p.m. (EST), scored a 2.3 rating and 4.5 share and its 1.21 million homes made it the most-watched CLASH replay ever.

Since the December SEASON'S BEATINGS in 1988, TBS has repeated each CLASH within 10 days of its live airing.

The original CLASH IX posted a 4.9 rating and, combined with the 2.3 for its rerun, the 7.2 cumulative figure tallied the all-time combo rating in the CLASH series.

The two showings were seen in 3.71 million homes, another combo record, totaling an estimated 8.5 million viewers.

The next CLASH, scheduled live Feb. 6 on TBS as a lead-in to the Feb. 25 WRESTLE WAR '90 pay-per-view show, will originate from a Texas site.

VENTURA TO STAR IN NEW FLICK FOR SUMMER RELEASE

LOS ANGELES --- Jesse Ventura will be hitting the movie screens again with a film scheduled for summer release.

"Abraxas" is the next film for "The Body," which was plugged briefly during the SURVIVOR SERIES pay-per-view show Thanksgiving night.

The movie is being produced by a small independent company, Rose and Rudy Productions, and will again feature Ventura in the action-adventure realm.

In a related note, "Predator," in which Ventura had a supporting role with Arnold Schwarzenegger, scored a 6.3 rating and 11 share during its Nov. 15 premiere on the Fox network. "Predator," a special Wednesday movie on Fox, aired opposite portions of CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS on TBS.

MATWATCH HOTLINE

(205) 826 - RING

INSTANT REVIEW

Saturday Night's Main Event

This was one of those shows in which one realizes how much the business has changed and also how loyal Vince McMahon can be to a veteran performer when he's been with him through bumps and grinds.

I don't know when I've watched two more excruciatingly poor matches than Ultimate Warrior vs. Andre the Giant and the succeeding Hulk Hogan vs. Lanny Poffo. I'm convinced the only reason we didn't see the quick 10-to-40 second finishes on Andre (as we similarly did on SURVIVORS) as have been happening around the horn is Vince simply didn't want to embarrass Andre on his most-watched spectacle of the entire WWF video package. And watching 11 minutes of those two is a testimony to the fact that personality alone sells in the WWF. Andre was so bad, he was enough to make Nikita Koloff's waning NWA matches look like four-star efforts. And Jim Hellwig, who had at least shown at SUMMER SLAM that in a tightly-booked match, he could compete in an event of longer than four minutes, reverted to the tactics which constantly rate him among the bottom on insiders' tipsheets.

Not a soul viewing had a doubt the Hogan-Poffo affair was strictly designed to set up a Hogan-Hennig series, which may well be part of the SNME card in either January or March. But Poffo's ballet prancing made me long for the days in the old All-South promotion when he was Leaping Lanny and offered a workrate which at least could have made him a good jobber in the NWA. And I thought I'd had enough of this kind of act watching Terrence Garvin as Beauty in the CWF. Except for his brief selling job, about all Hogan could do here was stand around and the ending of a countout, marking the first time Hogan has ever "lost" a match (save the screw-job loss of the WWF belt in 1988 to Andre) on NBC was even more pathetic, although it spared us of yet another Superman comeback.

While not offensive (at least yet), the bit of using an older black female fan as an agitator/jive dancer with Dusty Rhodes smacks of another impending WWF stereotype that potentially can evolve into a tasteless caricature if not controlled. But at least it's not as bad as the latest lines involving Brickhouse Brown in CWF (see TV TEMPO).

What did impress was a respectable Hennig-Terry Taylor match, much more along the lines of what we expected at SUMMER SLAM when Taylor's knee blew out in the first 90 seconds. And Sean Michaels & Marty Jannetty demonstrated why many analysts regard them as the top tag team in pro wrestling today with a broad display of ground and aerial skills in knocking off Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson in one of the best tag efforts I've seen the whole year.

Technically, we saw fewer of the artificially-staged interviews by Gene Okerlund and Jesse Ventura was used more in his "inquiring reporter" role between matches, which was a plus. But neither McMahon nor Jesse were exceptionally sharp with their lines this time as few were original or memorable. Kerwin Silfies did his usual solid job of direction, the man who is the unseen star of many of the WWF's classy productions.

At best, this SNME has to rate a RESTHOLD-PLUS, thanks to the saving grace of the final two matches. But the first 50 minutes, save if you're one of the WWF hardcores who feels everything the promotion does is great, simply by being on the air, were comparable to being stuck in a room at gunpoint and being forced to watch all 78 episodes of GILLIGAN'S ISLAND in succession. And after that SURVIVORS which failed by a longshot to match the '88 show, this wasn't one of Titan's better TV weeks, in our view.

MATWATCH

Page 5

Vol. 2, No. 23 / Nov. 27-Dec. 3

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent.
POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair.
BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

{SPECIAL NOTES: AWA/ESPN pre-empted, PWF & LUCHA LIBRE reports too late for edition, will be included next week.}

(CWF) - Dixie Dyn-O-Mite d. Superstar; Robert Fuller/Brian Lee d. Chief Little Lyn/Bob Steele; Adrian Street d. Madd Maxx; Cactus Jack Manson no contest vs. Ron Starr; SEGMENT: Dennis Condrey issues DDT challenge. RESTHOLD.

(USWA) - Dustin Rhodes d. Dog of War; Jeff Jarrett d. P.Y. Chu'i; REPLAY: Percy Pringle bashed by guitar; Billy Travis/Gary Young d. Eric Embry/Bill Dundee. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(CWA) - Frankie Lancaster d. Kevin Dillinger; Mike Davis/New York Brawler d. T.D. Steel/Tim Hall; ARENA: Jerry Lawler d. Soultaker to reclaim unified title; STUDIO: Soultaker d. Big O/Jim Kelly; Tony Anthony d. Freezer Thompson; Ricky Morton/Bill Dundee d. Davis/Brawler; Todd Champion d. Keith Eric. DRAW.

(STAMPEDE) - [2 Wks. Ago] - Biff Wellington/Chris Benoit d. Skull Mason/Goldie Rogers; Bret Derringer d. Steve Gillespie; Archangel d. Sumohara; Owen Hart d. Batman (Angel of Death). RESTHOLD.

[Last Week]: Sumohara d. Gillespie; Benoit/Wellington d. Mason/Jason Anderson; Archangel d. Dr. Zhivago; Owen Hart double DQ vs. Larry Cameron; Davey Boy Smith draw vs. Johnny Smith. POWERSLAM....best in last 6 months.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Dusty d. Akeem by countout when Akeem argues w. Dusty fan; Powers of Pain d. Bill Woods & Chuck Casey; ANGLE: Dino Bravo-Ultimate Warrior-John Tenta strength showdown; Andre/Haku d. Byron Johnson/Mike Howell; Lanny Poffo d. Koko B. Ware but Koko dropkicks Poffo out of ring after; Rick Rude d. Mark Regan; BRO. LUV w. Hulkamaniacs; Jimmy Snuka d. Honky Tonk Man. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Rockers d. Tom Burke/Bobby Jagers; Curt Hennig d. Warren Bianchi; Ronnie Garvin d. Brooklyn Brawler; Rude d. Regan; Brutus Beefcake d. Dimmel; Randy Savage d. Hercules Hernandez; Powers of Pain d. Todd Becker/Ray Oakley; SEGMENT: Martel as MODEL. RESTHOLD. [SUPERSTARS]: Snuka d. Honky by DQ when Honky conks him w. guitar but Snuka doesn't sell; Demolition d. Mike Scarberry & Ken Arnold; Andre/Haku d. Becker/Oakley; Dusty Rhodes d. Rusty Riddle; Randy Savage d. Paul Roma; Jake Roberts d. Dave Watson; BRO. LUV: Roddy Piper comes to the mike minus the good parson but holds long rope attached to which is eventually revealed LUV in the biggest diaper one has ever seen; Other winner: Dino Bravo. DRAW.

(WWF/NBC) - [SNME]: I-C TITLE: Ultimate Warrior d. Andre the Giant by DQ when Bobby Heenan enters. Warrior pounds Bobby & slams him into Andre; WWF TITLE: Lanny Poffo d. Hulk Hogan by countout when Hennig hits Hogan w. title belt as ref is distracted; Dusty d. Bossman when Slick goofs up w. nightstick & Bubba & Slick argue after. Dusty brings his female groupie into ring to dance; Curt Hennig d. Terry

TV TEMPO

Week of Nov. 20-26

Taylor; ANGLE: Heenan & Brainbusters get into big squabble before match. Rockers d. Tully & Arn 2-3 falls & after Bobby shoves Tully in between falls, Heenan abandons 'Busters before 2nd fall ends (say Hello, NWA, Arn), then fires them before 3rd fall. ANGLE: Hennig smashes up WWF title belt w. hammer. RESTHOLD-PLUS....first 2 matches among the worst in 1989 but Taylor-Hennig was good and Rockers-Brainbusters offered terrific NWA-style action.

(PORTLAND) - Jeff Warner d. Jonathan Boyd by DQ; Rex King d. Al Madril; Grappler d. Bill Francis using trunks; Rip Oliver d. Brian Adams by DQ when Grappler runs in w. kendo stick but Warner saves; Beetlejuice d. Jonathan Holliday but Madril comes out w. water bucket & Holliday throws it on BJ, then wipes off his makeup. ANGLES: 1) After Boyd-Warner, Grappler offered Warner another chance to join Wrecking Crew. Adams uses kendo stick on Warner, then sprays words WRECKING CREW in red paint on Warner's back. Oliver then saves; 2) Madril refuses King TV title shot but King slaps Al & Madril signs for title match; 3) Scotty the Body hands Ginger love letter & airline ticket to Mexico. Then, he lays kiss on her. Veronica comes out, pulls Scotty away, calls Ginger "dark-haired hussy." Steve Doll pulls Ginger away. Veronica gets into verbal battle w. Ginger & both women go berserk. POWERSLAM.

(GA. ALL-STAR) - Invader d. Joey Maggs; VIDEO: Maggs; Joel Deaton d. Troy Aldridge; Burgerman d. Mike Golden by DQ; Billy Starr vs. Jimmy Powell in progress as show ends. RECAP: Randy Rose vs. Deaton. BOMB-PLUS.

(NWA/SYND.) - [NWA PRO]: CLASH RECAPS...Flair-Funk, Sting-Luger standoff, Steiners-Skyscrapers. ARENA: Sting d. Tugboat Tyler; Dragonmaster d. Rusty Riddle; Freebirds double countout vs. Tom Zenk/Brian Pillman. RESTHOLD-PLUS. [WORLD WIDE]: Buzz Sawyer d. Tommy Angel; DOOM d. Bob Emory & Mike Justice; Pillman wins DQ over Luger when Lex uses chair but Sting saves, uses Stinger splash on Lex & destroys Luger in brawl to dressing room; RECAP: CLASH highlights; PEDICINO'S NOSE: STARRCADE Preview. DRAW. [MAIN EVENT]: CLASH Highlights; Zenk d. Bob Cook; Sting & Pillman d. New Zealand Militia & after, Lord Littlebrook chews out Militia and offers to manage them. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/TBS) - [MAIN EVENT]: (From WWW) Luger-Pillman; Eddie Gilbert d. Cuban Assassin; Sawyer d. Richie Rouge. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[POWER HOUR]: (Replay) Ric Flair d. Mike Rotunda; Great Muta d. Frogman LeBlanc; Pillman/Zenk d. El Diablo/Cuban A; WNN: Gordon Solie attempts to explain Ironman tourney; FUNK'S GRILL: Downtrodden Terry explains how he's lost pride but will keep FUNK'S GRILL a "fun place." RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[WCW]: (Key Match) Flair d. Muta by DQ when Sawyer, Gary Hart & Dragonmaster run in & the 4 leave Flair laying as Jim

MATWATCH

Page 6

Vol. 2, No. 23/Nov. 27-Dec. 3

Ross informs fans Sting & Pillman are not at Center Stage.
DRAW...Flair-Muta was tremendous.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Larry Cameron, STAMPEDE: "I'm like a bikini, Owen Hart. I show you a lot---but not everything." 2. Bobby Heenan, SNME, to Tully & Arn: "You're fired. In fact, as of now, you two are part of the homeless." 3. Heenan & Roddy Piper, PTW: (BH) "You're the kind of guy that when everybody goes in the pool, you snatch their purses." (RP) "You're the kind of guy that when you gotta go potty, you don't leave the pool." 4. Andy Griffith, MATLOCK, to Tiny Lister (Zeus): "You sure don't say much." 5. Cameron, STAMPEDE, on Davey Boy Smith: "You're a living example a blind mule will pick up an ear of corn once in a while." 6. Sting, WWW: "The only difference between me & those trophies you bashed, Lex, is I hit back." 7. Cameron, STAMPEDE: "I'm the greatest thing to come to this country since the light bulb." 8. Tully Blanchard, SNME: "We were great 2 weeks ago when we had the belts, weren't we, Bobby?" 9. Charlie Platt, CWF, to Downtown Bruno: "I've spent the last few days giving thanks for my blessings, then you showed up." 10. Scotty the Body, PORTLAND, on his taped arm: "It's just dental floss."

11. Piper, PTW, to Heenan: "The only way you can avoid these people is if you become roommates with Jim Bakker." 12. Tiny (Zeus) Lister, MATLOCK, after murder weapon is found: "It's bloody." 13. Jesse Ventura, SNME: "You ain't Nureyev, Hogan. Forget it." 14. Cameron, STAMPEDE: "Owen Hart, you've been running around like a little chiuauaua chewing at people's ankles." 15. Ronald V. Gossett IV, CWA: "Those three women in the second row look like they're auditioning to be the Michelin tire man." 16. Sting, WWW, on Luger: "Chairs excite me." 17. Jim Davies, STAMPEDE, on Bret Derringer: "He may have been born beautiful but today, he's questionable." 18. Hugh Hart, STAMPEDE, on Sumohara: "It looked like someone beamed Mr. Zulu up." 19. Jesse & Vince, WWF: (JV) "Look at that profile. That's Hollywood." (V Mc) "Yes, the horror movies are back." 20. Terry Funk, FUNK'S GRILL: "You will come back, won't you? FUNK'S GRILL is supposed to be a fun place."

SURVIVOR LINES - 1. Ventura: "Gorilla, you look like you're ready to be browned, basted & served to the armed forces overseas." 2. Ventura: "Gorilla, you look like you ate a whole pumpkin pie today." 3. Ted DiBiase: "I'm thankful because I'm rich & you're not." 4. Demolition AX: "We're thankful because we don't have to fight each other." 5. Ventura: "If Garvin hadn't been reinstated, he'd be selling hot dogs at O'Hare Airport." 6. Monsoon, on Heenan Family: "They have 3 wrestlers & a weasel."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Funk, FUNK'S GRILL: "It's not a lot of fun to be the Wrestler of the Week when you win it by losing all your pride." 2. Dennis Condrey, CWF: "I like Brickhouse Brown. Everybody ought to own one." 3. Piper, PTW, to Heenan: "I wouldn't make the mistake of calling you Mr. because there's not a manly bone in your body." 4.

Heenan, SNME, on Tully & Arn: "They are the worst tag team I've ever been associated with."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Heenan, PTW, to Piper: "Are those your legs hanging out of that skirt or are they drumsticks?" 2. Ventura, SNME, to McMahon: "Didn't you learn to say 'splendiferous' at Hah-ward?" 3. Piper, WWF, on Bro. LUV: "Have you ever heard of soap on a rope? I've got dope on a rope."

BEST PICTURES - 1. SNME, Heenan arguing w. Tully & Arn. 2. WWW, Sting-Luger brawl. 3. SNME, Rockers double savate kicks on Tully & Arn. 4. TBS, Funk's facial expressions during FUNK'S GRILL. 5. SNME, still-frame of smashed WWF title belt.

WORST PICTURE - SNME, Dusty dancing with fan.

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. THE ALL-NEW ELMER PUDD OF THE WWF (Piper on Andre). 2. THE TOOTH DECAY OF THE WWF (Piper on Rude)

LANNY POPPO AWARD - Roddy Piper, PTW: "Boobsie the Brain strikes a-GAIN."

BLOOPER AWARD - Gene Okerlund, SNME, for calling Vince McMahon "Wince."

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - McMahon, WWF: "...2 peas in a pod."

MICHAEL HAYES PLAGIARISM AWARD - Hugh Hart, STAMPEDE: "Heaven don't want us and Hell's afraid we'll take over."

BOO AWARDS - 1. WWF, for giving flimsy or no explanation for the no-shows at SURVIVOR SERIES after plugging some of these guys for 3-4 weeks in syndication, knowing they wouldn't be there. 2. CWF, for Dennis Condrey line on Brickhouse Brown. I like Dennis tremendously but this another class example of Robert Fuller's apparent desire to offend every female and minority group in the country.

TUBE TALK

Please indulge us the holiday week to have visited family. Our LINES OF... list doesn't cover all the shows as exhaustively as I'd like....The Flair-Muta match was without doubt the top TV match of the week with Rockers-Tully & Arn a respectable second....Ed Whalen has been off STAMPEDE for 3 consecutive weeks on TSN and not a mention of why....Tully & Arn were treated a shade better than the original reports of them losing 2 straight falls & I really don't think the firing was as devastating to their cause in returning to the NWA as originally thought. Of course, only Arn can concern himself with that at this point.

If you haven't voted yet, add the 2 matches mentioned above to the BEST OF... nominees for top Broadcast/Cable TV match and tack on Warrior-Andre, Hogan-Poffo and at least two of the SURVIVOR SERIES contests to the WORST OF... candidates....Pittsburgh coach Mike Gottfried looked like Jim Cornette's older brother prowling the sidelines vs. Penn State Saturday....Reports from AWA watchers are the Team Challenge bouts have been awful in that small studio.... Finally, next week's WCW is from 6 to 7:35 p.m. Eastern. FSB.

MATWATCH

Page 7

Vol. 2, No. 23 / Nov. 27-Dec. 3

NO CLOSING NOTICES: Much speculation continues that either CWA or CWF or both will shut down at the end of the year. There are no confirmations on either. But it is true that Continental has been running fewer towns and crowds are low. Birmingham remains almost dead with only Montgomery drawing respectably, along with adequate support in Dothan.

MORE ON BOOKERS: We missed David Woods, who was out of his office this week, for a comment on whether Robert Fuller is or isn't leaving as CWF booker. But Fuller was openly touted as returning to USWA on the KTVT/Dallas show on the Nov. 18 show.

GIVEAWAY?: NWA was expecting a big crowd for the annual Thanksgiving Omni show Thursday night but a real question mark: I was watching WCW Nov. 18 on a bus returning from the Georgia-Auburn game and I wonder if the suspense wasn't killed for the Flair-Muta main event when it was heavily promoted that Flair-Muta would also be the TV main event this past Saturday.

GREENSBORO'S SHOT: With the decision apparently made to put WRESTLE WAR '90 and an almost sure Flair-Luger title match on top in Greensboro, the blitz has to be strong to win back the upper North Carolina faithful. Crowds have been down and the former Jim Crockett Promotions mantle city only drew about 6,200 for the final Crockett Cup and 6,000 for the first CLASH.

OTHER CONTENDERS: Greensboro was selected over Tampa (the former NWA stronghold which has not drawn well in recent years), the Fox Theatre in St. Louis and New Haven, Connecticut.

REVENGE MOTIVATION: What insiders will be watching will be: 1) whether the WWF attempts to schedule a live show in the area near the same date and 2) how much of a factor the firing of Carl and Elliott Murnick as event coordinators will have on STARRCADE. The Murnicks, said to be on track to work for the WWF now in the Carolinas/Virginia region, are reportedly primed, according to some sources, to take revenge on the NWA. But others say the region hasn't been drawing well with the Murnicks at the throttle, so a defection to Titan wouldn't be that big of a factor.

HE'S GOT TASTE: The latest angle from CWF has almost as much taste as the aborted one involving Linda Street. Ron Starr and Cactus Jack Manson, one of my favorites, got into a brawl on the CWF show. Explanation: Robert Fuller contended Starr, many years ago, had an "illegitimate son" and when the son tried to break into pro wrestling, Manson beat him beyond recognition, prompting a revenge try by Starr. One source told me an idea had been tossed out that Manson would be the "illegitimate son," borrowing from Johnny Cash's old "A Boy Named Sue" theme (but the song had a lot more humor and taste).

ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME: On the other hand, unique is the style of Randy Rose on GEORGIA ALL-STAR and on Atlanta's WVEU-TV SUPERSTARS. Rose has returned to heavy heel ways on GAS but when he appears on SUPERSTARS interviews, he's a ra-

COMINGS & GOINGS

PREDICTIONS: Our forecast on buy-rate for SURVIVOR SERIES will run between 2.6-3%, no matter what Titan announces after it's over. There just isn't the widespread excitement that even last year presented, predominantly because after the Hogan-Zeus ending at SUMMER SLAM, few people believe Zeus to be that big of a threat to Hulk.

LOOKING AHEAD: Speculation continues over the WRESTLEMANIA VI main event in Toronto. Many fans believe it will be the proposed mixed tag match of Hogan/Elizabeth vs. Savage/Sherri. But inside sources insist that's what Titan wants everyone to think but will instead go with Hogan-Zeus.

TINY'S TOILS: Tiny (Zeus) Lister Jr. had more dialogue on his two-part guest shot on MATLOCK which ended last Tuesday than he has in all of his combined appearances on the WWF. Tiny acted as bodyguard for Ben (Andy Griffith) as Matlock attempted to solve a murder case inside a prison where the inmates began a hostage situation for better conditions. Funny, Tiny never beat his chest or grinned even once. Like the NWA's Norman, he didn't do it.

BUY A TABLE, WATCH THE MATCH: NWA running a promotion with Skinner's Furniture in Columbus, Ga., where the guys return for the first time in five months Thursday night. If you come in the showroom, you get a free ticket. Steiners vs. Doom is on top, along with Zenk/Pillman vs. Freebirds and Norman vs. Rotunda. I'll report on them next week.

END OF AN ERA: Ralph Freed's ouster as Georgia and Florida events coordinator ends a 40-year connection of the Fred Ward family with the NWA. Ralph worked closely with his father-in-law, heading up the video enterprises for Fred Ward Promotions for years. I wish our friend Chip Burnham well as Southeast coordinator but it won't be the same at the Columbus auditorium without Mr. Ward's enthusiasm and his daughter, Rose Ogle, behind the ticket booth.

ONE YEAR AGO IN MATWATCH...

...On SURVIVOR SERIES, Vince McMahon tells Jesse Ventura, "Comparing Jesse's body to the Ultimate Warrior's is like comparing ice cream to horse manure."

...TBS officials express shock at Dusty Rhodes' "spike in the eye" angle with Road Warrior Animal.

...TBS announces WCW to move to 7:05 p.m. in January.

...WCW outpoints WWF's PTW in cable ratings, 3.1 to 2.5

...Paul E. Dangerously says, "David Crockett, we know why you're here but tell me, Tony---who are you related to?"

RATINGS RAP

CABLE

Week Ending Nov. 21	Rating	Share	Total Homes
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 11/18)	3.0	5.8	1.52 mil.
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 11/20)	2.9	4.5	1.41 mil.
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 11/19)	2.7	4.6	1.37 mil.
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 11/19)	2.6	6.4	1.26 mil.
CLASH IX REPEAT (TBS 11/21)	2.3	4.5	1.21 mil.
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 11/17)	2.2	3.7	1.12 mil.
NWA POWER REPEAT (TBS 11/18)	1.1	8.6	560,000

(ANALYSIS: WCW led weekly cable shows for the first time since the hot angles in Dusty's waning NWA days last December and hit a 3 for the first time since Dec. 2, 1988. And this was in a week when PRIME TIME and ALL-AM were both up. MAIN EVENT was up slightly even with a lackluster show but POWER HOUR, minus a strong lead-in and with only a Luger-Murdoch rematch on top, fell back 24%, yet drew over 1.1 million homes. But the POWER HOUR Sat. repeat hit its all-time high at 1.1. Ratings trend up, partly from increased fall viewing levels and stronger November sweeps shows.

NOTE: Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, syndication numbers were not available.)

MATWATCH SHOPPERS NETWORK

TAPES

JOHN LANIGAN, P.O. Box 583, McKeesport PA 15134, has a new catalog of 50 audio and video tapes available, including

three great new volumes from Japan. Write John for his list. Prices are from \$6-12.

RIC DAVIES, 1220 14th St., Bay City MI 48708, has a library of more than 400 tapes to offer. Write Ric for a complete listing.

JACK THIELEPAPE, 809 Salem Lane, Austin TX 78753 is seeking tapes of NWA PRO, NWA WORLD WIDE, GLOW and POWW. He can offer in trade: NWA/TBS, WWF/USA, AWA/ESPN, WCCW LEGENDS, WWF SUPERSTARS, USWA/KTVT, some ALL-JAPAN, NEW JAPAN and the Japanese women's groups and WWF/SNME.

BULLETINS

PRO WRESTLING ENQUIRER is still being offered by HARVEY COBB, 2619 Ruffin Way, Norfolk VA 23504. In January, Harvey will begin offering PWE HEADLINE NEWS for \$2.25 an issue. Write him for details.

RINGSIDE REFLECTOR: Next week, we'll publish special details on a new subscription offer from J.D. McKay. But for a good monthly cross-section of fan opinions, get the REFLECTOR from J.D. at Rt. 2, Box 291, Louisville MS 39339.

BOOKS

THE PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING TRIVIA BOOK by Robert Myers is available for \$9.95 (U.S.) and \$10.45 (Canada and overseas). Check or money order to: BRANDEN PUBLISHING, P.O. Box 843, Brookline V., Boston MA 02147.

MEMORABILIA

An adjustable version of the NWA world championship belt is now on the market. It's \$11.95 plus \$2.95 for shipping and handling. NEW YORK and GEORGIA residents must add applicable sales tax. Order from THE TURNER STORE, One CNN Center, Box 105320, Atlanta GA 30348-5320. Credit card orders are taken toll free at 1-800-423-3200. If paying by check, make it payable to TURNER HOME ENTERTAINMENT.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

MATWATCH
213 PINE HILLS AVE.
AUBURN AL 36830

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Auburn AL
PERMIT NO. 123

David Skolnick
90 W. Main St. #5
Gouverneur, NY 13642

ISSUES REMAINING _____
FINAL REMINDER _____

GIFT NEW EXTENSION
UNTIL _____